

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An object of value with a security element, wherein the security element has at least one liquid-crystalline material, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material effects a linear polarization of light.
2. (Original) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is formed by a lyotropic liquid crystal.
3. (Currently amended) The object of value according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material has a layer thickness of 100 to 1000 nanometer.
4. (Currently amended) The object of value according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is applied all-over or in certain areas; ~~in particular in the form of alphanumeric characters and/or patterns, the liquid-crystalline material in particular effecting a locally different polarization.~~
5. (Currently amended) The object of value according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is applied onto a background, which has at least one of patterns and/or characters.
6. (Original) The object of value according to claim 5, characterized in that the background is printed, is produced by inking a substrate or with the help of a laser.
7. (Currently amended) The object of value according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1,

characterized in that at least one of the liquid-crystalline material, the background ~~and/or~~ a further layer has properties testable by at least one of machine ~~and/or~~ visually testable.

8. (Currently amended) The object of value according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the security element is a label.

9. (Currently amended) The object of value according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the object of value is a security paper, a security document or a product packaging.

10. (Currently amended) The object of value according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that the security element has at least one of at least one further layer producing optical effects ~~and/or~~ a protection layer, which cover at least a part of the security element.

11. (Original) A security element for protecting objects of value, wherein the security element has at least one liquid-crystalline material, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material effects a linear polarization of light.

12. (Original) The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is formed by a lyotropic liquid crystal.

13. (Currently amended) The security element according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material has a layer thickness of 100 to 1000 nanometer.

14. (Currently amended) The security element according to ~~any of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is applied all-over or in certain areas, ~~in particular in the form of alphanumeric characters and/or patterns.~~

15. (Currently amended) The security element according to ~~any of claims 11 to 14~~claim 11, characterized in that the carrier of the liquid-crystalline material is a birefringent foil with predetermined phase shift, ~~in particular of a quarter wave or half wave.~~

16. (Currently amended) The security element according to ~~any of claims 11 to 15~~claim 11, characterized in that the security element has at least one of at least one further layer producing optical effects ~~and/or~~ a protection layer, which cover at least a part of the security element.

17. (Currently amended) The security element according to ~~any of claims 11 to 16~~claim 11, characterized in that the security element is a security thread, a lookthrough register or a planchet.

18. (Original) A transfer material for producing a security element, characterized in that the transfer material has a carrier material, on which is disposed at least one liquid-crystalline material, wherein the liquid-crystalline material is formed by a lyotropic liquid crystal.

19. (Original) The transfer material according to claim 18, characterized in that the carrier material is formed as a hot stamping foil.

20. (Original) A method for producing an object of value or security element, characterized in that

- a substrate is provided,
- onto this substrate at least one lyotropic liquid-crystalline material is applied.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, characterized in that the at least one lyotropic liquid-crystalline material is present in a solution, which under the exertion of directed shearing force is applied onto the substrate, and that a solvent forming the solution is removed.

22. (Original) A method for testing an object of value, characterized in that there is checked at least one of,

- whether light is linearly polarized, ~~and/or~~
- whether the light has a color effect, ~~and/or~~
- whether a depolarization of at least one of the polarized light ~~and/or~~ a not taking place of the color effect occurs when the light passes through the bank note substrate.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein at least one of light diffusely reflected ~~and/or~~ transmitted by the object of value is checked.

24. (New) The objection of value of claim 4, wherein the liquid-crystalline material is in a form of at least one of alpha numeric characters or patterns, and wherein the liquid-crystalline material affects a locally different polarization.

25. (New) The security element of claim 14 wherein the liquid-crystalline material is in a form of at least one of alpha numeric characters or patterns.

26. (New) The security element of claim 15 wherein said phase shift is a quarter wave or half wave shift.